

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 EURE-00 IO-14 DPW-01 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 AID-20

DRC-01 (ISO) W

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P R 111735Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2565

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY BONN

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 5442

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EAID, ID, NL

SUBJECT: POLITICAL PRISONER ISSUE RAISED AT IGGI

1. IN REMARKS OPENING FIFTEENTH IGGI CONFERENCE, DUTCH CHAIRMAN (MINISTER FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION PRONK) REFERRED TO INDONESIAN POLITICAL PRISONERS AS ONE OF PROBLEMS WHICH MUST BE SOLVED IF BALANCED DEVELOPMENT IS TO BE ACHIEVED. PRONK SAID: QTE: BUT PROBLEMS WITH REGARD TO EMPLOYMENT, INCOME DISTRIBUTION, THE GROWTH RATE OF THE POPULATION, REGIONAL DISPARITIES, THE USE OF DOMESTIC RESOURCES, LABOUR, CAPITAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES, HUMAN RIGHTS - INCLUDING THE RIGHTS OF POLITICAL PRISONERS - MOBILIZATION OF THE PEOPLE AT GRASS-ROOTS LEVEL, INTEGRATED RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MANY OTHERS ALL HAVE TO BE SOLVED IF A BALANCED DEVELOPMENT PROCESS IS TO BE SET IN MOTION. UNQTE.

2. INDONESIAN AMBASSADOR TO THE U.S., SJARIF THAJEB, TOLD DELOFF THAT INDO DELEGATION LEARNED OF PRONK'S INTENDED REMARKS EVENING BEFORE OPENING SESSION. THEY PROTESTED VIGOROUSLY AGAINST ANY
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REFERENCE TO POLITICAL PRISONERS, BUT ACCORDING THAJEB, PRONK

SAID HE UNDER INTENSE POLITICAL PRESSURE FROM WITHIN HIS OWN PARTY AND FELT REFERENCE HAD TO BE MADE. PRONK REPORTEDLY TOOK PROBLEM TO DUTCH PRIME MINISTER AT INDONESIAN BEHEST, SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD GOI DELEGATION THAT IF THEY INSISTED ON DELETION HIS REMARK, DUTCH COULD NO LONGER ACT AS CHAIRMAN IGGI CONFERENCES.

3. THAJEB SAID INDO DELEGATION VERY DISTURBED BY THIS "INTERFERENCE IN INTERNAL AFFAIRS" BUT HAD DECIDED AGAINST IMMEDIATE REJOINDER IN IGGI OPENING SESSION. ACCORDING THAJEB, INDO DEL WILL OBSERVE PRESS REACTION HERE AND IN JAKARTA, THEM POSSIBLY REPLY TO PRONK REMARK AT CLOSE OF FINAL SESSION "WHEN HE WON'T HAVE TIME TO RESPOND TO OUR COMMENTS".

4. THAJEB NOTED PRONK ACTION PROBABLY RELATED IN PART TO AGITATION HERE, BY AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, OF POLITICAL PRISONER ISSUE AND INDONESIAN MILITARY RULE. (AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL REPORTEDLY CONVENING LARGE AMSTERDAM MEETING TOMORROW, AND DUTCH GROUP ASSOCIATED WITH AMNESTY MOUNTED SMALL DEMONSTRATION AT ENTRANCE CONFERENCE HOTEL DEC 11.)

5. DELOFF COMMENTED TO THAJEB THAT ANY SHARP REJOINDER COULD SIMPLY DRAW FURTHER ATTENTION TO MATTER AND EXACERBATE PROBLEM WITH DUTCH. IGGI STRUCTURE UNDER DUTCH CHAIRMAN GREAT ASSET TO GOI AND CONFRONTATION SHOULD BE AVOIDED. DELOFF ALSO OBSERVED GOI DELEGATION COULD ALMOST AGREE WITH PRONK STATEMENT, I.E. BY SAYING THAT GOI RECOGNIZED PROBLEM, HAD MADE SUBSTANTIAL PROGRESS IN OVERCOMING IT, AND FULLY INTENDED CONTINUE EFFORTS IN THAT DIRECTION. THAJEB APPEARED TO AGREE.

6. UNDERSTAND AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL AND PRESS LIKELY TRY CONTACT US DELEGATION. IF UNABLE AVOID SUCH CONTACT GRACEFULLY, WE INTEND TAKE LINE USG WELL AWARE OF PROBLEM, HAVE DISCUSSED IT WITH GOI, AND HAVE NOTED THEIR PROGRESS IN REDUCING NUMBERS OF PRISONERS PLUS RECENT INDICATIONS OF GOI INTENTION UNDERTAKE MEASURES AIMED AT REINTEGRATING PRISONERS INTO INDO SOCIETY.
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